



The Signevierist

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The Official Newsletter of the Fire Mark Circle of the Americas

2022 CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT!

"Warren! I hear a little peppering going on in the direction of the little hill off yonder," spoke General Meade. "I wish that you would ride over and if anything serious is going on ... attend to it."

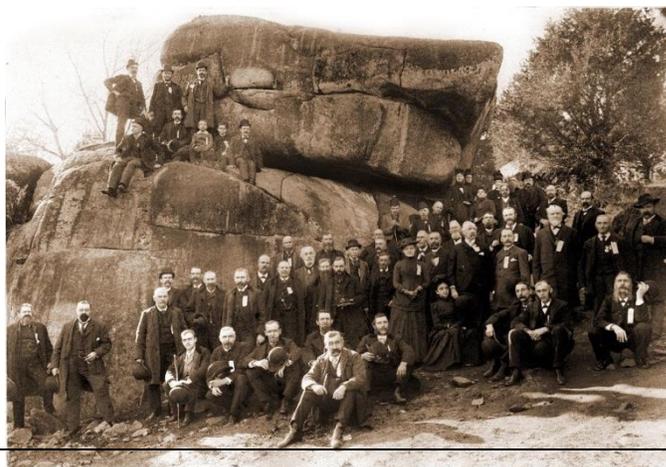
Lt. Washington A. Roebling, Warren's aide and the future builder of the Brooklyn Bridge, said that he recalled this request verbatim fifty years after the event. In accordance with the commanding general's wish, Warren rode to the "little hill" and thereby rode to prominence and a small place in history.

From *Gettysburg: The Second Day*, Harry W. Pfanz, University of North Carolina Press, p. 201, 1987.
https://doi.org/10.5149/9780807869734_pfanz.10

The hill, known today as Little Round Top, was secured by Union troops only minutes before a wave of Confederate infantry swept up its southern slope the afternoon of July 2, 1863. Thus began the first of several assaults that drained both sides of men and ammunition until Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain ordered the remnant of the 20th Maine to fix bayonets and risk all by charging down the hill.

What made Little Round Top worth defending to the last is still a subject of debate among historians of dubious value as an artillery position, it nevertheless afforded a commanding view of the entire federal line of defense along **Cemetery Ridge** and, a mile away,

Seminary Ridge, which concealed Confederate troops prior to the fateful Pickett's Charge that effectively ended the battle the following day. Also visible from its heights are the **Peach Orchard**, where Union General Daniel Sickles was knocked from his horse by a Confederate cannon ball, and **Devil's Den**, an outcropping of boulders used by Confederate sharpshooters to pick off Union defenders of Little Round Top, revisited 26 years later by survivors from the 20th Maine, including Chamberlain.



The creases and cracks in those old boulders have eroded over the years, but many are still visible today,

inviting modern visitors to wander up and compare their heights with those of veterans from long ago while imagining the smoke and fire, and air so full of lead that bullets would collide and fuse. And Devil's Den is just one of several such redoubts packed at close quarters throughout the battlefield to be featured on a 2-hour chartered bus tour specially arranged for attendees of the 2022 FMCA Convention in Gettysburg, PA. The bus tour will be conducted by a Licensed Battlefield Guide and is scheduled immediately after a morning immersed in Gettysburg battlefield exhibits (keep an eye out for the fused bullet) and multimedia presentations, including the film A New Birth of Freedom and the famous Gettysburg Cyclorama depicting Pickett's Charge, painted by French artist Paul Philippoteaux 20 years after the battle.

The bus tour will be followed by lunch at Dunlap's Restaurant, a popular eatery in Gettysburg, after which the history lessons resume with a tour of the Eisenhower National Historic Site. Situated on land occupied by Confederate troops during the battle, this 189-acre farm was purchased in 1950 by Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower as a retirement home, although it initially worked as a retreat during the presidential years. The Eisenhowers chose the site because of its proximity to the battlefield, which he first visited in 1915 as a West Point cadet to study troop movements and tactics, and to which he returned decades later to resume his studies of the battle and the circumstances and sacrifices of the people who fought there and preserved its legacy.

While this promises to be a very full and interesting day to kick off the conference, Gettysburg, and environs have much to offer to a history-minded crowd like members of the FMCA. For those inclined to investigate other hills further yonder, we suggest the following places to consider for pre- and/or post-convention activities:

1. Pennsylvania National Fire Museum; Harrisburg, PA
2. Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum; Hanover, PA
3. Fireman's Hall Museum; Philadelphia, PA
4. York County Fire Museum; York, PA
5. Reading Area Firefighters Museum; Reading, PA
6. NJ Fire Museum; Allentown, NJ
7. NJ Firemen's Museum; Boonton, NJ
8. Hoboken FD Museum; Hoboken, NJ

INVITATIONS TO BE MAILED OUT SHORTLY!!

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“HOUSE PLATE MANUFACTURERS”



I always enjoy finding a tin mark with a maker's mark. It helps date tin fire marks and gives it a little added context historically. With the help of Bob Shea, Logan Smith, and Scott Tippen I put together a list of all known marks with maker's marks and some undiscovered marks that may have a maker's mark as well. If you have a fire mark not listed here, with a maker's mark, please contact the editor so I can update the list.

<u>Bulau #</u>	<u>Insurance Company/Agency Name</u>	<u>Exact Maker's Mark</u>	<u>Maker's City</u>	<u>Maker's Mark Location</u>
94	Fire Association of Philadelphia	Wells & Hope Co. Phila.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Bottom right
94-V-B	Fire Association of Philadelphia	Wells & Hope Co. Phila.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Seen on both bottom right and bottom center
123	Virginia Fire and Marine Insurance Company	American Can Company	Unknown	Bottom center
192-V-A	The Connecticut Fire Insurance Company	C.W. Shonk Sign Mfg. CHICAGO	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom center

236	The Home Insurance Company	Shank Sign Co. N.Y.	New York City, Ny.	Bottom right
282	Adams Insurance Agency	The Tuscarora Adv. Co., Coshocton, O.	Coshocton, Oh.	Bottom center
299-X-1	Germania Fire Insurance Company of New York	The Tin Plate Decorating Co. N.Y.	New York City, Ny.	Bottom right (Patent date listed on bottom left)
335	Farmers Mutual Fire of Monroe and Wayne	H.C. Tiffany & Co.	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom right

	Counties			
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389-V-A	Detroit Fire and Marine Insurance Company	C.M. Cary Chicago Ill USA	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom center
405	Rockford Insurance Company	C.W. Shonk, Sign Mfg., Chicago, Ill.	Chicago, Ill.	?
445-X-1	Forest City Insurance Company	Shober & Carquerville, Chicago	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom right
452	Des Moines Fire Insurance Company	The Kellogg & Bulkeley Co. Harford, Conn.	Hartford, Ct.	Bottom right
458	Columbia Fire Insurance Company	Standard Adv. Co. Coshocton, O.	Coshocton, Oh.	Bottom right
470	The Alliance Cooperative Insurance Company	Trapp-Topeka	Topeka, Ks.	Bottom left
475-X-1	State Insurance Company of Des Moines	Cass & Porter Chicago	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom right
484	Barry County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company	Toledo Metal Sign Co. Toledo, O.	Toledo, Oh.	Bottom right
948-X-1	Scottish Commercial Fire & Life Insurance Company	Strobridge & Co. Mfs. Cin. O.	Cincinnati, Oh.	Bottom center

US-AF-1	Atlas Fire Insurance Company	Shober & Carqueville Chicago	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom right
US-FH-1	FarmersqMutual Fire Relief Association	The Coshocton Sign & Novelty Co., Coshocton, O.	Coshocton, Oh.	Bottom right
US-FI-1	FarmersqMutual Town Fire Insurance Company	Stronghart Co Chgo	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom center

US-FJ-1	Fidelity Fire Insurance Company	A.W. Bogart, 27 Park Place N.Y.	New York	Bottom center
US-GG-1	German Mutual Insurance Company of Indiana	Shonk Tin Printing Co. Chicago.	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom right
US-KA-1	The Michael Kirsch Agency	The F. Tuchfarber Co. Mandor. Cin. O.	Cincinnati, Oh.	Bottom Center
US-KB-2	Kansas Farmers Alliance Insurance Company	Townsend, Hostetter & Co. Manufrø Chicago	Chicago, Ill.	Bottom center
US-MH-1	Mennonite Mutual Fire Insurance Company	The Elwood Myers Co. Springfield, O.	Springfield, Oh.	Bottom right
Not Found Yet	Home Mutual Fire Insurance Company (Chicago, Ill.)	Chicago Insurance Plate Company	Chicago, Ill.	Unknown
Not Found Yet	Lykens Valley Mutual Insurance Company (Elizabethville, Pa.)	The Kellogg & Bulkeley Co. Harford, Conn.	Hartford, Ct.	Unknown

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DEUTSCHE FEUERVERSICHERUNGS-SCHILDER REVISITED

Having read and thoroughly enjoyed Bill Evenden's comprehensive *Deutsche Feuerversicherungs-Schilder/German Fire Marks*, I was pleasantly surprised to find an insurance policy issued by an American company that was, to a small extent, in both English and German.



The policy masthead shown above is from the German Insurance Company of Freeport, Illinois and was issued on August 3, 1886. (Refer to the *2021-1 Signevierist* for a short history of the company.) While the masthead is English and German, the remainder of the policy is English.

Having read Bill's book, I was able to recognize and understand the German words, *Deutsche Versicherungs Gesellschaft*, immediately as German Insurance Company.

Going one step further, I decided to examine Bill's German translation of fire mark. The word *fuerversicherungs* translates to fire insurance, and the word *schilder* translates to signs. Turns out that the German translation is a great definition of fire mark: a fire insurance sign.

Who knew insurance could be educational and fun?

Thank you, Bill.

Bob Shea

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ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS!!

If you are looking for a copy of *Footprints of Assurance*, please contact member Logan Smith at SSMITH4810@AOL.COM. He currently has several copies that he is selling for \$20 + shipping. This book is considered the *Bible* for fire mark collectors both in the United States and all over the world and is a must have for any collector.

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Fidelity of Delphos Mark Finally Surfaces

While we have known since 2018 of the existence of US-FJ-1 from an auction photograph we were unable to verify measurements and other details about the mark. The mark finally popped up on eBay with two other common Aetna marks. We now have a sufficient photograph and all the details needed to update the addendum page. The final bid was an astounding \$627.76. The updated addendum page will be attached or printed out for those of you receiving mailed copies of the newsletter.

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Fire Mark In Situ



SULZEBACHER HOME 500 BLOCK WEST BALTIMORE STREET